



January 27, 2004

**OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. OK300-4-2****SUBJECT: LTP – Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) - Cost-Share Program  
Guidelines and Cost-Share Application Form**

**Purpose:** To transmit to field offices current information regarding the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Forestry Services' FLEP.

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2004

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry will be administering the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) through the Oklahoma Forest Resources Development Program (FRDP). The U.S. Forest Service approved Oklahoma's Forest Land Enhancement Program Priority Plan in September, 2003. The FLEP was authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill replacing the Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP) and the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP).

FLEP is a voluntary program available for all NIPF landowners who have an approved forest management plan. The practices to be cost-shared and the cost-share rates are described in Oklahoma's FRDP Cost-Share Program Guidelines. For those field offices that wish to review this material, three documents are enclosed for information and reference:

- Oklahoma's FRDP, Program Guidelines, Part 1 (**38 pages**) contains the basic operating policies for the program, the details for how the FLEP funds will be utilized, including minimum acres, maximum acres, aggregate payment, use for technical, educational and cost-share assistance, and all other factors for the program.
- Oklahoma's FRDP, Part 2, Cost-share Practices, Components and Specifications (**53 pages**) contains information about eligible practices, components and cost-share rates.
- Oklahoma's FRDP, Forestry Cost Share Application, (**7 pages**) contains the application form with instructions for statewide use including eligibility, application procedures, cost share rates, and ODA Forestry Services' contact information.

Oklahoma has \$330,000 of FY 2003 Federal FLEP funds available for landowner cost-shares. About one-fourth of this amount will be approved for each of Oklahoma's Forestry Administrative Areas. Approvals will be based upon prioritized lists of applications submitted monthly by Area Foresters.

NRCS employees should provide basic program information to interested producers and refer them to the appropriate ODA Forester serving their area. NRCS will continue to work cooperatively with ODA Forestry Services personnel in assuring the conservation needs of private land managers are being addressed. However, NRCS will not be providing direct administrative and technical support for the FRDP/FLEP.

If you have any questions, contact Kevin Norton, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, at Kevin.Norton@ok.usda.gov, or (405)742-1236.

/s/ Kevin D. Norton, Acting For

M. DARREL DOMINICK  
State Conservationist

Enclosures

DIST: AE